Irrigation Potential

*396. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progressive percentage of irrigation potential created and actually utilised under the major and medium irrigation schemes in the country since the First Five Year Plan period till date;

(b) what are the reasons for the growing gap in the creation and utilisation of irrigation potential and what is the yardstick for assessing the correctness or otherwise of the actual irrigation potential utilised by the various State Governments; and

(c) what measures are contemplated by the Central Government to identify the problems for the full utilisation of the irrigation potential created and what remedial measures are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) During the period commencing with the First Five Year Plan upto the Sixth Plan, the progressive irrigation potential creaetd under major and medium irrigation schemes, is about 20.3 million hectares. The level of utilisation is 77% of the created potential.

(b) and (c) The reasons for lag in utilisation include, apart from time needed by farmers to switch over from traditional dry-land farming to irrigated agriculture, inadequate micro-distribution system and on-farm development works. Assessment of potential and utilisation is done by the State Governments. The steps being taken in improving utilisation of irrigation potential include implementation of on-farm development works, such as, provision of field channels, drainage, land shaping, introduction of rotational water supply and introduction of improved water management practices with farmers' participation.

Affairs of Tea Industry in Tripura

*397. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tea Association of India has requested for setting up of a panel to look into the issues affecting the tea industry in Tripura; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) and (b) The Tripura Branch of Tea Association of India has been requesting for the constitution of a State level Committee on tea to look into the various problems being confronted by the tea industry in Tripura. The issue had been taken up by the Ministry of Commerce with the State Government of Tripura. However, pursuant to decisions taken in the First National Conference on Tea production and productivity held in August, 1987. The Central Government have constituted a committee to formulate a long-term strategy on tea with special reference to weaker areas like Tripura.

Pollution caused by M/s. Hindustan Petrochemicals, Meethapur, Delhi

*398. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of people in Meetha-